



TEXAS RACING COMMISSION
P. O. Box 12080
Austin, TX 78711-2080
(512) 833-6699
www.txrc.state.tx.us

PRESS RELEASE
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Contact: Bill Childs
512-833-6699

Commission Hosts Final Horse Race Date Calendar Committee Meeting

Formal Race Date Requests In From Tracks, Negotiations Continue on 2011 Racing Calendar

Austin — On September 1, the Texas Racing Commission hosted a Horse Race Date Calendar Committee meeting in Austin. Representatives from the horsemen, breed registries, Texas horse tracks, staff from the Texas Racing Commission and various members of the public attended the meeting led by Commissioners Ronald Ederer (committee chair), Ann O'Connell and Scott Haywood. The meeting followed similar events at Lone Star Park on July 16 and Sam Houston Race Park on August 13.

Although tracks submitted formal race date calendar requests for 2011 and part of 2012 to the Commission on August 18, comments at the Austin meeting clearly indicate that negotiations among tracks and horsemen continue. The dates the Commission allocates to tracks throughout the state make up the Texas racing calendar.

Industry stakeholders continue to bring new ideas and potential race date alternatives to the discussion. During the meeting, talk centered not only on the dates requested by the tracks, but also on 2011 calendars submitted by other stakeholders, including an alternative proposal developed by staff at the Racing Commission.

The staff's alternative plan addresses several major issues. The plan provides spring race dates for all breeds and offers sufficient and meaningful opportunities for proposed mixed meets. Finally, the plan maximizes racing opportunities on balance with the operational and financial needs of the tracks and the horsemen's purse accounts.

The full Commission expects to allocate race dates at its September 14, 2010, meeting. Committee chair Ederer charged the tracks and other industry stakeholders to continue talking during the next two weeks.

Commissioner Ederer said, "There's a lot of work that can still be done on this calendar. I encourage the industry's stakeholders to do it."

For more information regarding race date allocation, please email info@txrc.state.tx.us, or contact Bill Childs at 512-833-6699.

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